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of things that, if complete, form a very attractive group. These sets are all combinations of useful articles, and, if purchased to match and decorated accordingly, are quite showy and may be very elaborate. Take, for instance, the "library" or "desk set," wherein a wide margin exists for selection. While the inkstand, the four corners (for the blotter), a penholder and a penrack or pencil-tray would form a set, comprising, as it does, all the really useful and necessary articles, this may be added to by a dozen more elegant little trifles. There is the paper-weight, a solid, heavy, flat piece of china, with a handle or knob rising from the middle of the top surface. Matching this is the small blotter. There is also a paper-rack with the usual three apartments and a stamp-box, also with three separate divisions. A sponge-cup is one of the newest additions, and so is the perpetual calendar. A mucilage-pot is quite a necessary appurtenance to many, and others, again, would deem a thermometer of some value. Tall candle-sticks find a resting-place on the library writing-table, and a tiny one for a taper to melt sealing-wax is also convenient for those who use a seal. Handles come to be attached to paper-cutters, and finally the bell is frequently added to this array. Some have also even added one of the small china boxes to hold pens. All of these different articles, while not actually necessary to complete a set, are of the usually adopted style of desk furniture, and a selection may be made as best suits one's requirements, and perhaps nothing will be missed, even if half of them are omitted.

A toilet or boudoir set is another that admits of great elasticity in selection, and one may procure as many as one needs. In addition to the brush and comb tray and manicure-tray already mentioned, there are the backs for both hair and clothes brushes, a hand-mirror and one for a comb also. Included also in this set are some two or three of the various jars, pots and boxes, a ring-stand or tree, and the handle for the shoe-buttoner. In the selection of these sets one can make them as elaborate as one wants.

Another set comprises a punch-bowl on a revolving stand, a large tray, one capable of holding the punch-bowl and a dozen punch cups.

For the gentlemen there is, of course, the inevitable smoking set, the several articles being a tray, a covered jar for smoking tobacco, a smaller one, without cover, for segars, and a still smaller one for cigarettes, a box for matches and a small tray or dish for ashes and burnt matches. To

this assortment may be added a candlestick, and this is frequently done.

From this vast supply, to which manufacturers are constantly adding, the amateur china decorator need never be at a loss to supply herself or her friends—the latter not always being an unmixed blessing. A friend of mine, a literary woman, had been for many years the recipient of small articles for her desk on all occasions when a gift was possible. Being a popular woman, these were frequent and every pretext for a "remembrance" or a "souvenir" usually took this shape. These were repeated in various materials—wood, glass, brass, and finally in silver. When she heard from me that they were all made in porcelain, she exclaimed with considerable dismay and anxiety in her voice, "I suppose I shall have to have them all over again now in china!"

DECORATIVE NOTE.

A UNIQUE piece of furniture is the dressing-table belonging to the Duchess of York, which is made in Staffordshire porcelain. It is modeled in a shell-work design; the latter is lighted up by electricity, so that the rays reflecting the colors and tones of the porcelain spread all around a soft glimmer of exquisite effect. On the fringe of the table are the words "Marriage of the Roses," and the shell work is decorated with shamrocks, roses, and thistles in raised gold. Eloquent in its poetic expression is, among others similarly conveyed, the idea given by the painting on the left-hand cupboard of the dressing-table. An old gold rose with golden stem, and golden leaves and petals, represents the archbishop in the act of blessing the royal pair, who, symbolized by a



SERVICE IN LIMOGES PORCELAIN. BY HAVILAND. FROM LA REVUE DES-ARTS DECORATIFS.

white rose and a red one, are standing before the altar. In their wake is a train of four pink roses adorned with veils of maidenhair ferns; these are the bridesmaids. Another poetical thought lies in the frame of the mirror, which is ornamented with shamrocks and thistles without the rose. The artist's mind has conceived the idea that the English rose will be present only when the Duchess of York looks into the glass. In another splendid suite, which illustrates the poem of "Launcelot and Elaine," the treatment of the modeling and of the coloring is an indisputable proof of the great advancement in art made in England. The same praises might be sung of other equally lovely pieces, among which are the "Hamlet" sideboard with its rich decoration of palm leaves, and the "Faust" suite.